

Late Filing

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

This proposal may appear attractive on the first reading, but after careful study it is clear that it would harm consumers. It does this by creating a situation where a few large companies can lock out all competition for internet services.

Currently these companies are required to allow other providers access to their networks. If they are allowed to lock their networks down and exclude the many independent ISP's who provide both the final mile and other connectivity services, then the consumers will end up being ripped off.

It is a situation identical to what happened in the cable TV market, where the FCC made rules that abandoned cost controls on cable television. Within weeks of that decision, many of us saw our cable TV bills skyrocket from fifteen dollars a month to over sixty dollars a month. With no competition the cable behemoths run roughshod over the consumers, and you are poised to create the exact same scenario with internet services. In most of the country there are only a few players in the internet access market, and many of those are independent ISP's who don't have the deep pockets to purchase politicians like the phone companies and cable companies do. In fact, it appears that with the recent mergers in the cable industry, we already have a situation where there is an unregulated monopoly providing telephone, cable and internet connectivity in many parts of the country. In those areas, prices have already started to shoot up as the companies try to get the cash to pay for the merger by strip-mining the consumer base.

Please do not make the error of falling for the bribes, sales lies and pretty stories of the phone company monopoly and cable monopoly. Don't drop the open access rules. Don't let the independent ISP's be shut out of the network just at the point in time where the internet is becoming more critical to our economy. We need to keep the equal access provisions to allow competition to flourish.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall Winchester
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